AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for controlling an optical transmitter, the method comprising:

changing a laser bias to the optical transmitter from a first laser bias level to a second laser bias level in accordance with a laser bias control scheme; and

changing an electrical modulation amplitude of an optical signal associated with the optical transmitter from a first value to a second value in accordance with an electrical modulation amplitude control scheme,

wherein the laser bias control scheme and/or the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme include a ramp function; and

wherein the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme is defined such that changing the electrical modulation amplitude to the optical transmitter from a first value to a second value comprises one of: changing the electrical modulation amplitude to the optical transmitter from a minimum to a setpoint; or, changing the electrical modulation amplitude to the optical transmitter from a setpoint to a minimum.

2. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme and electrical modulation amplitude control scheme are defined such that at least a portion of the electrical modulation amplitude change is implemented at a different time than implementation of the laser bias change.

3. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme and the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme are defined such that the

electrical modulation amplitude change is implemented at substantially the same time as implementation of the laser bias change.

4. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme and the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme are defined such that a substantial portion of the laser bias change is implemented prior to implementation of a substantial portion of the electrical modulation amplitude change.

5. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme and laser bias control scheme are defined such that a substantial portion of the electrical modulation amplitude change is implemented prior to implementation of a substantial portion of the laser bias change.

6. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme is defined such that at least a portion of the change to the laser bias is implemented linearly with respect to time.

7. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme is defined such that at least a portion of the change to the laser bias is implemented non-linearly with respect to time.

8. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme is defined such that at least a portion of the change to the electrical modulation amplitude is implemented linearly with respect to time.

9. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme is defined such that at least a portion of the change to the electrical modulation amplitude is implemented non-linearly with respect to time.

10. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme is defined such that changing the power to the optical transmitter from a first laser bias level to a second laser bias level comprises one of: changing the power to the optical transmitter from a minimum to a setpoint; or, changing the power to the optical transmitter from a setpoint to a minimum.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme and the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme are respectively defined such that the laser bias change and the electrical modulation amplitude change are implemented in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event.

13. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the predetermined event comprises assertion of an optical transmitter disable signal.

14. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the predetermined event comprises deassertion of an optical transmitter disable signal.

15. - 22 **(Canceled)**

23. **(Currently Amended)** A method for controlling an optical transmitter, the method comprising:

performing ~~the method of claim 1~~ the following during a first predetermined time slot:

changing a laser bias to the optical transmitter from a first laser bias level to a second laser bias level in accordance with a laser bias control scheme; and

changing an electrical modulation amplitude of an optical signal associated with the optical transmitter from a first value to a second value in accordance with an electrical modulation amplitude control scheme,

wherein the laser bias control scheme and/or the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme include a ramp function; and

performing the ~~method of claim 1~~ the following during a second predetermined time slot:

changing a laser bias to the optical transmitter from a first laser bias level to a second laser bias level in accordance with a laser bias control scheme; and

changing an electrical modulation amplitude of an optical signal associated with the optical transmitter from a first value to a second value in accordance with an electrical modulation amplitude control scheme,

wherein the laser bias control scheme and/or the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme include a ramp function.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the first predetermined time slot is proximate in time to startup of the optical transmitter, and wherein the second predetermined time slot is proximate in time to shutdown of the optical transmitter.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the laser bias control scheme and electrical modulation amplitude control scheme are respectively defined such that in the first predetermined time slot, a substantial portion of the laser bias change is implemented prior to implementation of a substantial portion of the electrical modulation amplitude change, and wherein in the second predetermined time slot, a substantial portion of the

electrical modulation amplitude change is implemented prior to implementation of a substantial portion of the laser bias change.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein in the first predetermined time slot, the first laser bias level comprises a minimum and the second laser bias level comprises a setpoint, and wherein in the second predetermined time slot, the first laser bias level comprises a setpoint and the second laser bias level comprises a minimum.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein in the first predetermined time slot, the first value of the electrical modulation amplitude comprises a minimum and the second value of the electrical modulation amplitude comprises a setpoint, and wherein in the second predetermined time slot, the first value of the electrical modulation amplitude comprises a setpoint and the second value of the electrical modulation amplitude comprises a minimum.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein, in both the first and second predetermined time slots, at least a portion of the change to the laser bias is implemented linearly with respect to time.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme is defined such that in both the first and second predetermined time slots, at least a portion of the change to the electrical modulation amplitude is implemented linearly with respect to time.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the laser bias control scheme is defined such that in both the first and second predetermined time slots, a substantial portion of the laser bias change is implemented linearly with respect to time

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ramp function includes a predetermined gradual change in the laser bias and/or modulation as a function of time.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ramp function includes a linear predetermined gradual change in the laser bias and/or modulation as a function of time and a non-linear predetermined gradual change in the laser bias and/or modulation as a function of time.

33. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The method as recited in claim 1,~~ A method for controlling an optical transmitter, the method comprising:

changing a laser bias to the optical transmitter from a first laser bias level to a second laser bias level in accordance with a laser bias control scheme; and

changing an electrical modulation amplitude of an optical signal associated with the optical transmitter from a first value to a second value in accordance with an electrical modulation amplitude control scheme,

wherein the laser bias control scheme and/or the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme include a ramp function; and

wherein the ramp function is associated with a first slope of a first linear portion of the ramp function and a second slope of a second linear portion of the ramp function.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the laser bias control scheme and/or the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme include a second ramp function, wherein the ramp functions are associated with different slopes.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein the laser bias control scheme and the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme are defined such that a portion of the electrical modulation amplitude change is implemented at substantially the same time as implementation of the laser bias change

36. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the laser bias control scheme is defined such that a portion of the change to the laser bias is implemented non-linearly with respect to time.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the electrical modulation amplitude control scheme is defined such that a portion of the change to the electrical modulation amplitude is implemented non-linearly with respect to time.